

Serial No. 10/808,669

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobial suture assembly comprising:

(a) a containment compartment comprising one or more surfaces having an antimicrobial agent disposed thereon, said antimicrobial agent being selected from the group consisting of halogenated hydroxyl ethers, acyloxydiphenyl ethers, and combinations thereof, in an amount sufficient to substantially inhibit bacterial colonization on said containment compartment; and

(b) a suture that is absorbable under physiological conditions positioned within the containment compartment, the suture comprising one or more surfaces having an antimicrobial agent disposed thereon, said antimicrobial agent being selected from the group consisting of halogenated hydroxyl ethers, acyloxydiphenyl ethers, and combinations thereof; and at least one active agent selected from the group consisting of a biocide, a disinfectant, an antiseptic, an antibiotic, an antimicrobial peptide, a lytic bacteriophage, a surfactant; an adhesion blocker; an oligonucleotide, an efflux pump inhibitors; a photosensitive dye, an immune modulator and a chelator.

2. (Currently Amended) A packaged suture having antimicrobial properties comprising:

(a) an outer package comprising an inner surface having an antimicrobial agent disposed thereon, said antimicrobial agent being selected from the group consisting of halogenated hydroxyl ethers, acyloxydiphenyl ethers, and combinations thereof, in an amount sufficient to substantially inhibit bacterial colonization on said inner surface of said outer package; and

(b) a suture assembly comprising:

(i) a containment compartment comprising one or more surfaces having an antimicrobial agent disposed thereon, said antimicrobial agent being selected from the group consisting of halogenated hydroxyl ethers, acyloxydiphenyl ethers, and combinations thereof, in an amount sufficient to substantially inhibit bacterial colonization on said containment compartment; and

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(ii) a suture that is absorbable under physiological conditions positioned within the containment compartment, the suture comprising one or more surfaces having an antimicrobial agent disposed thereon, said antimicrobial agent being selected from the group consisting of halogenated hydroxyl ethers, acyloxydiphenyl ethers, and combinations thereof; and at least one active agent selected from the group consisting of a biocide, a disinfectant, an antiseptic, an antibiotic, an antimicrobial peptide, a lytic bacteriophage, a surfactant; an adhesion blocker; an oligonucleotide, an efflux pump inhibitors; a photosensitive dye, an immune modulator and a chelator.

3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)